

This week's community profile: Sturgeon Bay

City is the door to paradise

By Patty Hoeft

Press-Gazette

STURGEON BAY — Many folks in Sturgeon Bay feel paradise begins at the peninsula.

The Door County community is ideal for families, retirees and vacationers, say some residents.

Safe, friendly, beautiful and growing are among the praises sung by residents. "It's darn near utopia," says Dennis Statz, who owns the White Lace Inn along with his wife, Bonnie.

The Statzes, both 38, moved to Sturgeon Bay about 10 years ago to build their bed-and-breakfast dream in the Queen Anne Victorian home at 16 N. Fifth Ave.

No longer just innkeepers, the Statzes are new parents to adopted babies, Alexa, 3 months, and Zane, 2 months.

"We're here to stay," Dennis says.

Nestled at the base of the Door Peninsula, the community meanders east and west of Sturgeon Bay and is united by the downtown bridge.

The east and west sides had many names before officially being called Sturgeon Bay under the city charter in 1883. Former east side names were Ottumba, Graham and Tehema. For the west side, names included Bay View and Sawyer, after state congressman Philetus Sawyer.

Jane Greene, of 122 S. Seventh Ave., moved here 45 years ago to serve as director of the city's library.

"In library language, it was a 1½-lady library" before becoming part of the Door County Library system, she says.

Greene found more than books at the library during her term from 1950 to 1980.

"I married the mayor (Stanley Greene)," she says. The former library still stands on Michigan Street and houses an accounting firm.

Historic downtown, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is lined with original buildings built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The structures now house specialty and retail stores, eateries and galleries.

For great bratwurst and semmel buns, check out Knaapen Bakery, at 23 N. Third Ave. since 1934.

Seven pound deep-dish Door County cherry pies are part of the three tons of cherries served at the Inn at Cedar Crossing, 336 Louisiana St.

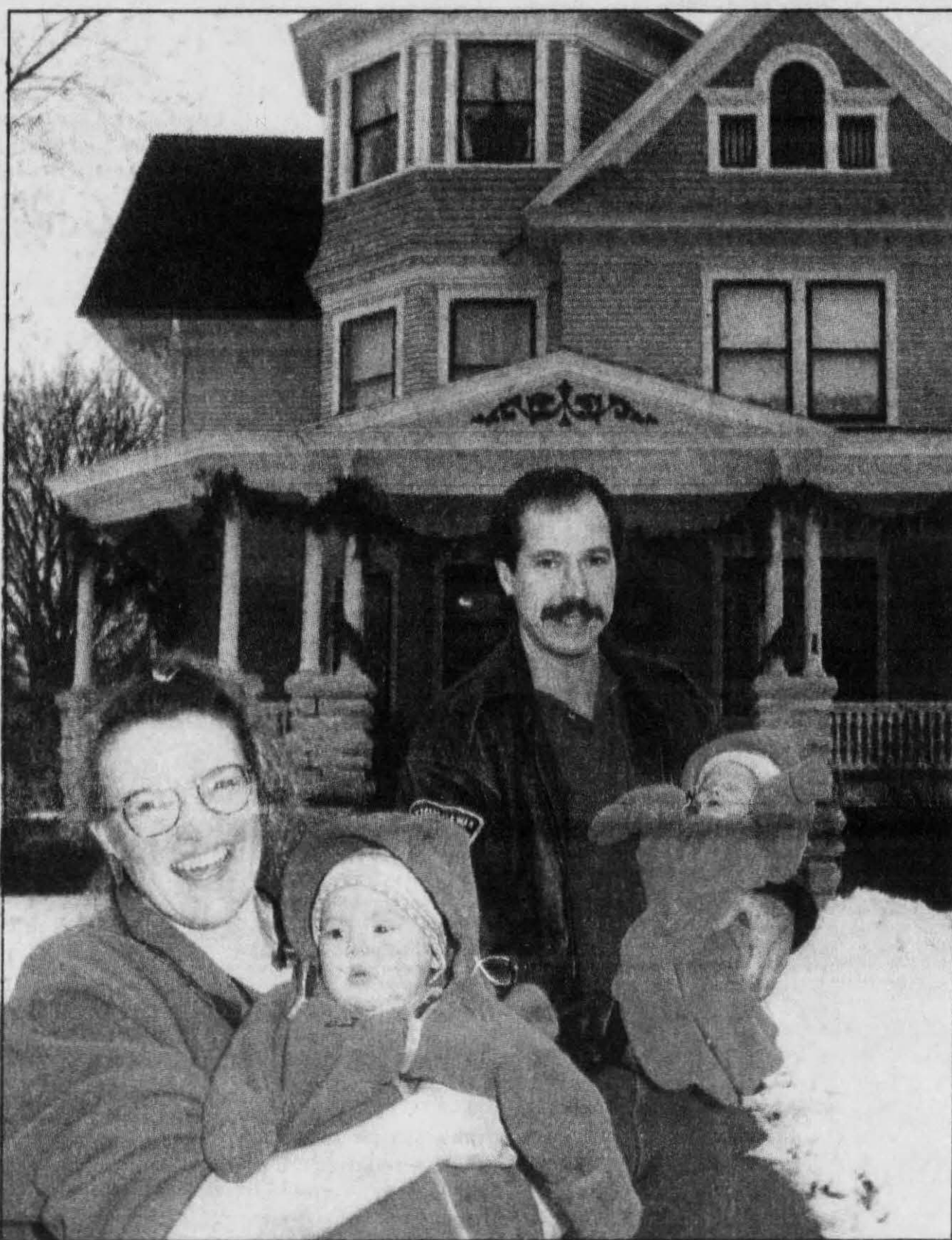
Terry Wulf, 36, owner of the 108-year-old brick building, and her 4½-month-old son, Ian, also are here to stay.

"The more you travel, the more you appreciate Sturgeon Bay," Wulf says.

Potawatomi State Park anchors the west. Cherry and apple orchards hug city edges. Shipyards tower over the shores.

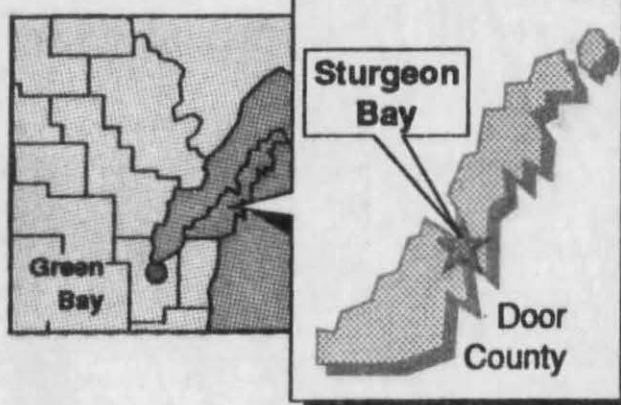
City planners are preparing for a wave of tourism in the year 2000. They want to attract their share of the estimated 2 million tourists who will drive through Sturgeon Bay on their way to northern Door County, says Dennis Jordan, city administrator.

The focus is on downtown waterfront



They're happy: Bonnie and Dennis Statz stand outside their bed and breakfast business, the White

Lace Inn. They're holding their two adopted children: Alexa, 3 months, and Zane, 2 months.



The Sturgeon Bay file

- ☐ **Population:** 9,181
- ☐ **Location:** 45 miles northeast of Green Bay on Wisconsin 57
- ☐ **Attraction:** Potawatomi State Park sits west of Sturgeon Bay with hiking, bicycling, skiing and campsites.
- ☐ **Name game:** The city was named after the bay because the sturgeon fish were plentiful and Menominee Indians thought the bay was shaped like a sturgeon.

development. Plans include expanded marinas, a hotel and conference center, maritime museum, performing arts center and shopping gallery.

The plan is not new, says Mayor Norbert Schachtner. "It's going to happen. I just don't know when."

Sturgeon Bay native Julie Gebauer, 42, returned with her husband Bob, 43, to raise their family.

"We felt more comfortable here," says Julie, an art teacher at Sturgeon Bay Ele-

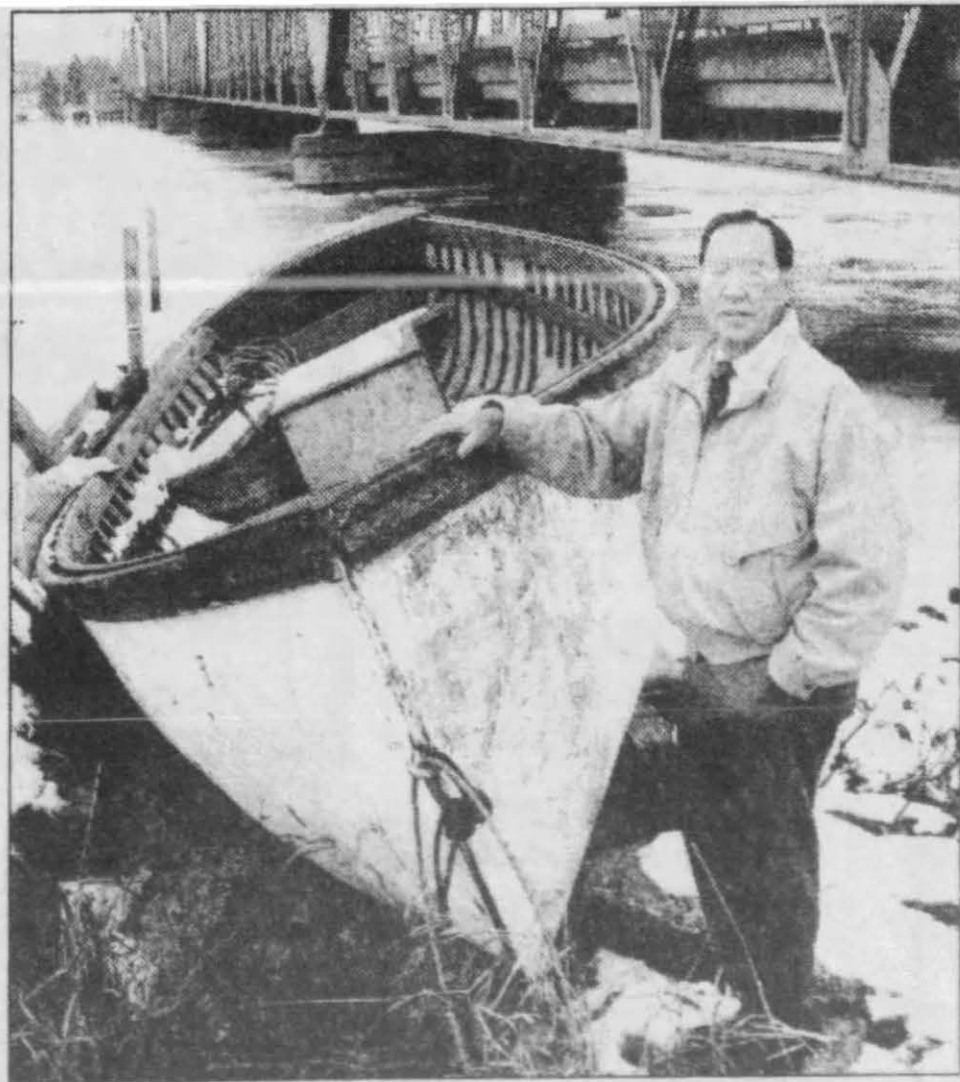
mentary School and Corpus Christi parochial school.

Her husband agrees.

"Around here," he says, "when you open the local paper they talk of who got the speeding tickets and who did really well on their bowling reports. Not who got killed or that type of thing."

"It's just a lot nicer way of living."

■ **Next week:** Morgan in Oconto County



Planning: Mayor Norbert Schachtner stands on the downtown shore, where development is planned.



Quilter: Jane Greene, former director of the city's library, quilts in her home.